AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

displaying a media stream in an active area of a display screen;

receiving metadata associated with [[a]] said media stream from a remote database; and

in response to said metadata, adjusting ~~masking elements of a~~ placement of said active area within said display screen.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said adjusting further comprises adjusting ~~said~~ masking elements so that a viewable area of said display screen takes on an aspect ratio associated with said media stream ~~in order to accommodate an on-screen display~~.

3. (Canceled.)

4. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said metadata comprises:

a specified aspect ratio associated with said media stream; and

an adjustment from a known aspect ratio to said specified aspect ratio.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said adjusting further comprises automatically controlling one or more physical masks.

6. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

presenting a media stream ~~having an aspect ratio~~ on a display screen having masking elements;

receiving metadata associated with said media stream, said metadata indicating desired digital content within said media stream ~~information from a source external to the media stream, said information relating to said aspect ratio~~; and

adjusting a size and/or position of an active ~~a viewable~~ area of said display screen in response to said metadata such that the desired digital content is displayed in said active area ~~information~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 6, wherein said adjusting comprises automatically moving said masking elements so that a viewable area of said display screen takes on an aspect ratio associated with said media stream.

8. Canceled.

9. Canceled.

10. (Withdrawn) A method, including steps of

recognizing a media stream with a first aspect ratio and user-interested viewable portion R embedded in a media stream having a second aspect ratio S, where S > R, whereby presentation of the media stream can be expanded to a relatively larger region of a display screen; and

presenting the media stream in that relatively larger region.

11. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 10, wherein a technique for embedding the first aspect ratio R includes letterboxing.

12. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 10, wherein the first aspect ratio R is a known television standard.

13. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 10, wherein the second aspect ratio S is a known movie standard.

14. (Withdrawn) A method, including steps of

recognizing an element to be presented within a media stream; and

adjusting a target location for said element in response to an aspect ratio of that media stream.

15. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 14, wherein those steps of adjusting include

adjusting masking of the display screen in response to said element and the media

stream; and

positioning the element in an effective display region not blocked by masking.

16. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 14, wherein said steps of adjusting include

adjusting the aspect ratio in response to said element and the media stream; and

positioning the element in an effective display region not blocking any substantial portion of the media stream.

17. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 14, wherein said steps of adjusting include positioning the target location in an effective display region not blocked by masking.

18. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 14, wherein said steps of adjusting include positioning the target location in an effective display region not blocking any substantial portion of the media stream.

19. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 14, wherein that element includes at least one of: a caption, a closed-caption, a subtitle, a translation, a ticker feed.

20. (Canceled.)

21. (Withdrawn) A method, including steps of

positioning some combination of masks and sidebars without regard for the aspect ratio of the media presentation, said positioning using absolute positional data values.

22. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 21, wherein said steps of positioning include compensation for projector overscan.

23. (Withdrawn) A method for adjusting the aspect ratio of a display including steps of

identifying a media stream to be presented;

querying a database for metadata associated with said media stream;

parsing said metadata, said steps of parsing yielding one or more informational components;

interpreting at least one of said informational components; and

moving one or more display masks in response to said steps of interpreting, said display masks being capable of obscuring and revealing some portion of said display.

24. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 23, wherein said display masks include one or more physical objects.

25. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 23, wherein said display mask includes an area of displayed light, said light of at least one hue determined to reduce screen burn-in at a transition boundary between an adjacently displayed image stream.

26. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 23, wherein said steps of identifying include reading at least one DVD hash value, whereby a particular media stream is identified by computing said hash value as a part of said media stream and using said hash value as a key for said first database.

27. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 23, wherein

said steps of identifying include interpreting said metadata before beginning presentation of said media stream at a bookmark; and

said steps of moving include moving said display masks before beginning presentation of said media stream at a bookmark.

28. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 23, wherein

said steps of identifying include interpreting said metadata in response to watchpoints in said media streams; and

said steps of moving are performed in response to decisions made at those watchpoints.

29. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 23, wherein said metadata includes some combination of: an aspect ratio, audio encoding specification, other device control information.

30. (Withdrawn) Apparatus including

a database including information associating aspect ratio information with media

streams;

memory or mass storage capable of receiving that information in response to one of those media streams; and

a masking controller capable of adjusting an aspect ratio of a display screen in response to information in that memory or mass storage.

31. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said aspect ratio information is adjusted by an input from a viewer.

32. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the information associating aspect ratio information includes

a pre-selected aspect ratio; and

an adjustment from a known aspect ratio.

33. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said steps of adjusting include automatically controlling the position of one or more masks or sidebars.

34. (Withdrawn) A method of doing business, including steps of

providing access to information associating aspect ratio information with media streams; and

collecting a fee in response to those steps of providing access.

35. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 34, wherein said information associating

aspect ratio information with media streams includes data for controlling some combination of a set of masks and a set of sidebars, said set of masks and set of sidebars adjusting the aspect ratio of the viewable portion of a display screen.

36. (Withdrawn) A physical medium including information readable by a computing device, the information including

a first media stream having a first aspect ratio R1, having been produced in response to a second media stream having a second aspect ratio R2, wherein

R1 > R2;

the first media stream is relatively larger than the second media stream; and

the first media stream does not include letterboxing.

37. – 56. (Canceled.)

57. (Withdrawn) A method for adjusting the aspect ratio of a display, the method including steps of

determining, from a media stream to be presented, the aspect ratio of said media stream;

calculating at least one informational component in response to said steps of determining;

moving one or more display masks in response to said steps of calculating, said display masks being capable of obscuring and revealing some portion of said display.

58. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 30, wherein said database includes information associating, with at least one media stream, some combination of at least one of aspect ratio information, horizontal size information, vertical size information, resolution, anamorphic compression, and letterboxing.

59. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 58, wherein said controller instructs movement of some combination of masks and sidebars, said masks and sidebars being capable of adjusting the active area of a display screen.

60. (Withdrawn) A method of doing business as in claim 34, wherein the steps of providing access include providing access to a database, the database including at least some information associating, with at least one media stream, some combination of at least one of aspect ratio information, horizontal size information, vertical size information, resolution, anamorphic compression, and letterboxing.

61. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 60, wherein said information includes data for controlling some combination of masks and sidebars, said masks and sidebars being capable of adjusting the active area of a display screen.

62. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said adjusting comprises displaying a color that minimizes burn-in in an inactive area of said display.

63. (Withdrawn) A method, including steps of

automatically determining an aspect ratio of a media stream; and

adjusting an aspect ratio of a display screen in response to said steps of automatically determining.

64-72. (Canceled.)

73. (Withdrawn) Apparatus, including

means for recognizing a media stream with a first aspect ratio R and user-interested viewable portion embedded in that media stream having a aspect ratio S not equal to R, whereby presentation of the media stream can be expanded to a relatively larger region of a display screen; and

means for presenting the media stream in that relatively larger region.

74. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 73, wherein the means for presenting includes letterboxing.

75. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 73, wherein the first aspect ratio R includes a known television standard.

76. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 73, wherein the second aspect ratio S includes a known movie standard.

77. (Withdrawn) Apparatus, including

means for recognizing a first element to be presented within a media stream, said element having a different aspect ratio from a second element in said media stream; and

means for adjusting a target location for said first element, in response to an aspect ratio of that second element.

78. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 77, wherein said means for adjusting includes

means for adjusting masking of a display screen in response to said first element and said second element; and

means for positioning the first element in an effective display region not blocked by masking.

79. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 77, wherein said means for adjusting includes

means for adjusting masking of the display screen in response to said first element and said second element; and

means for positioning the first element in an effective display region not overlapping any substantial portion of the second element.

80. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 77, wherein said means for adjusting includes means for positioning the target location in an effective display region not blocked by masking.

81. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 77, wherein said means for adjusting includes means for positioning the target location in an effective display region not overlapping any substantial portion of the media stream.

82. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 77, wherein that element includes at least one of: a caption, a closed-caption, a subtitle, a translation, a ticker feed.

83. (Canceled.)

84. (Withdrawn) Apparatus, including

means for automatically positioning some combination of masks and sidebars associated with a media presentation display screen, without substantial regard for the aspect ratio of the media presentation, said positioning using substantially absolute positional data values associated with said media presentation.

85. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 84, wherein said means for positioning includes compensation for projector overscan.

86. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for adjusting the aspect ratio of a display including

means for identifying a media stream to be presented;

means for querying a database for metadata associated with said media stream;

means for parsing said metadata, said parsing yielding one or more informational

components;

means for interpreting at least one of said informational components; and

means for moving one or more display masks in response to said interpreting, said display masks being capable of obscuring and revealing some portion of said display.

87. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 86, wherein said means for identifying includes reading at least one DVD hash value, whereby a particular media stream is identified by computing said hash value as a part of said media stream and using said hash value as a key for said first database.

88. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 23, wherein

said means for identifying include means for interpreting said metadata in response to watchpoints in said media streams; and

said means for moving are performed in response to decisions made at those watchpoints.

89. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 86, wherein said means for identifying includes identifying media streams at watchpoints.

90. (Withdrawn) Apparatus of claim 86, wherein said metadata includes some combination of: an aspect ratio, audio encoding specification, other device control information.

91. – 111. (Canceled.)

112. (Withdrawn) Apparatus including

means for automatically determining an aspect ratio of a media stream; and

means for adjusting an aspect ratio of a display screen in response to said means for automatically determining.

113. (Withdrawn) A physical medium including information readable by a computing device, the information signal incorporating a set of metadata associated with a media stream.

114. (Withdrawn) A physical medium as in claim 113, wherein the metadata includes instructions interpretable by a viewer device.

115. (Withdrawn) A physical medium as in claim 114, wherein the viewer device includes at least one of the following: a mask controller, one or more lights, one or more fans, one or more audio systems, one or more heating systems, one or more cooling systems.

116. (Withdrawn) A physical medium as in claim 113, wherein the metadata is updateable.

117. (Withdrawn) A physical medium as in claim 116, wherein the update is

responsive to one or more user inputs.

118. (Withdrawn) A physical medium as in claim 113, wherein the metadata is generated, at least in part, in response to the media stream.

119. (Withdrawn) A physical medium as in claim 118, wherein the metadata includes at least one aspect ratio associated with the media stream.

120. (Withdrawn) A physical medium as in claim 113, including

information describing a request identifying the media stream;

wherein the metadata includes at least one aspect ratio associated with the media stream.

121. (Withdrawn) An information signal as in claim 113, including

information describing a response including at least some of the metadata;

wherein the metadata includes at least one aspect ratio associated with the media stream.

122. (Withdrawn) A physical medium including information readable by a computing device, the information including

a set of displayable reference rectangles;

the rectangles each predisposed to an aspect ratio; and

the aspect ratio being selectable by an operator.

123. (Withdrawn) A physical medium including information readable by a computing device, the information signal including

one or more mask values, having been produced in response to the manual positioning of one or more masks;

one or more sidebar values, having been produced in response to the manual positioning of one or more sidebars; and

a combination of said mask values and said sidebar values generating an aspect ratio.

124. (Withdrawn) Apparatus including

means for generating positional data for a set of masks and sidebars, said means for generating responsive to manual positioning of said set of masks and sidebars by an operator;

means for calculating an aspect ratio from said positional data; and

means for storing said positional data in a database.

125.- 126. (Canceled.)

127. (Withdrawn) Apparatus including

means for analyzing a media stream, said analyzing generating positional data indicating a user-interested viewable portion and a user-uninterested viewable portion; and

means for placement of a set of masks responsive to said positional data, said placement obscuring said user-uninterested viewable portion.

128. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 29, wherein a portion of said metadata is used to control one or more lights.

129. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 29, wherein a portion of said metadata is used to control one or more cooling systems.

130. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 29, wherein a portion of said metadata is used to control one or more audio systems.

131. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 90, wherein a portion of said metadata is used to control one or more lights.

132. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 90, wherein a portion of said metadata is used to control one or more cooling systems.

133. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 90, wherein a portion of said metadata is used to control one or more audio systems.

134. (Canceled.)

135. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 10, including steps of sending information describing that relatively larger region to the database.

136. (Withdrawn) A method, including steps of

recognizing a media stream with a first aspect ratio and user-interested viewable portion R embedded in a media stream having a second aspect ratio S not equal to R, whereby presentation of the media stream can be expanded to a relatively larger region of a display screen; and

presenting the media stream in that relatively larger region.

137. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 136, including steps of sending information describing that relatively larger region to the database.

138. (Withdrawn) A method, including steps of

recognizing an element to be presented within a media stream, said element having a different aspect ratio from said media steam; and

adjusting a target location for said element in response to an aspect ratio of that media stream.

139. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 138, including steps of sending information describing that adjusted target location to the database.

140. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 21, including steps of determining

those absolute positional data values in response to a remote database.

141. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 28, including steps of prefetching said metadata before making decisions at those watchpoints.

142. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 28, including steps of predicting results of decisions at those watchpoints.

143. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 30, including

a communication channel coupled to that masking controller and to that database, and capable of sending information describing that adjusted aspect ratio to the database.

144. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 69, including means for maximizing usage of the display screen in response to presence in the media stream of a picture having an aspect ratio R3, with R3 not equal to R1.

145. (Withdrawn) Apparatus as in claim 84, including means for determining said values in response to a remote database.

146. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 88, including steps of prefetching said metadata before making decisions at those watchpoints.

147. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 88, including steps of predicting

results of decisions at those watchpoints.

148. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein said physical masks are capable of obscuring and revealing some portions of said display screen.

149. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending feedback information from a viewer of said media stream to said remote database; and

conditionally incorporating said feedback information into said database, whereby viewers subsequently receiving said metadata also receive said feedback information.

150. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

conditionally adjusting an aspect ratio of said display screen in response to input from an end viewer of said media stream; and

sending adjusted aspect ratio data from said end viewer to said remote database.

151. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said media stream comprises a set of elements to be displayed, said adjusting placement is responsive to the set of elements to be displayed, and further comprising:

positioning said set of elements in said active area.

152. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said adjusting placement further comprises:

recognizing a set of elements to be presented within said media stream, said set of elements having a different aspect ratio from the digital content; and

adjusting a target location for that set of elements in response to an aspect ratio of said media stream.

153. (New) The method of claim 152, wherein said set of elements comprises at least one of: a caption, a closed-caption, a subtitle, a translation and a ticker feed.

154. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

conditionally adjusting the aspect ratio of the displayed content in response to an on-screen display, said on-screen display being available to an end viewer of said media stream, and indicating placement for physical masks and sidebars.

155. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

identifying said media stream to be displayed;

sending a request to said remote database for said metadata;

parsing said metadata to yield one or more informational components; and

interpreting at least one result of said parsing.

156. (New) The method of claim 155, wherein said metadata includes some combination of: an aspect ratio; audio encoding specification; and other device control information.

157. (New) The method of claim 155, further comprising:

controlling one or more: lights; cooling systems; or audio systems in response to said metadata.

158. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said adjusting further comprises:

presenting a desired picture and excluding a remainder of a video frame, in response to said metadata, said metadata indicating a portion of said video frame occupied by said desired picture.

159. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said metadata comprises at least one of: a preselected aspect ratio; and an adjustment from a known aspect ratio.

160. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said media stream comprises a video stream having first and second elements; the metadata includes information associating each of the first and the second elements of the video stream with some independent combination of aspect ratio, horizontal size, vertical size, resolution, anamorphic compression, and letterboxing; and further comprising:

selecting a target location on said display screen for each of the first and second elements in response to said metadata.

161. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said displaying comprises projecting a modified image of a desired picture of a video frame of said media stream,

such that said active area contains the desired picture while excluding at least some portion of said video frame.

162. (New) The method of claim 161, wherein said active area of said display screen comprises at least one of: a reflective portion of said display screen visible to the human viewer; and an illuminated portion of said display screen visible to a human viewer.

163. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said adjusting is responsive to triggering of one or more watch points in said media stream.

164. (New) A method of displaying a motion picture including a sequence of frames of fields, each frame or field containing a portion of interest that is smaller than the frame or field, the method comprising:

receiving a selection from a user of a motion picture;

obtaining from a database metadata associated with the selected motion picture;

displaying the motion picture; and

adjusting masking means in response to the metadata so that substantially only the portion of interest is visible.